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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,145	07/26/2001	Hironobu Takagi	JP920000237US1	2731

29154 7590 07/11/2005

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EXAMINER

MANIWANG, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2144

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/682,145

Applicant(s)

TAKAGI ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph R. Maniwang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-18 and 20-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-13 and 25-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-18 and 20-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 14-18 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.
3. Regarding claims 14-23, "A system for simplifying web contents, comprising: a first sever element...; a second server element...; a third server element...; a fourth server element...; a fifth server element...; a module for calculating...; a module for not deleting...; a module for deleting...; and a user browser..." is non-statutory, since it is not tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable as there is no recited hardware elements in the claim limitations. This is true even if the various elements/modules include hardware, since it is the intent of the execution of the system and not the system itself that includes such hardware.
4. Regarding claim 24, "A computer-readable recording medium embodying a program executable by a computer, the program comprising: a function for requesting...; a function for acquiring...; a function for acquiring...; a function for performing...; a function for generating...; and a function for audibly outputting..." would normally be considered statutory unless the specification defines "computer readable medium" as including intangible media such as signals, carrier waves, transmissions, optical waves, transmission media or other media incapable of being touched or

perceived absent the tangible medium through which they are conveyed. In this case, the Specification discloses the use of "modules" for executing the claimed invention, which appear to be nothing more than software elements not tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable (see Specification, p. 7, paragraph [0053]).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 25-27 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
7. The provision for simplifying web contents comprising requesting access to a target web page; acquiring said target web page; acquiring adjoining pages that adjoin said target web page in accordance with a Document Object Model comprising image nodes and text nodes; performing a difference operation to delete objects that are common among said target web page and said adjoining pages from said target page to generate a simplified page, wherein said difference operation comprises calculating a significance of the objects included in said target page, wherein if said significance exceeds a predetermined threshold, said objects are not deleted even if said objects are common with the objects of said adjoining pages; and audibly outputting said simplified page is not fairly taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Support for this functionality can be found in the Specification, p. 9, paragraph [0062] through p. 10, paragraph [0063]; p. 16, paragraph [0115]; Fig. 1 and 8.
8. The provision for simplifying web contents comprising requesting access to a target web page; acquiring said target web page; acquiring adjoining pages that adjoin

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said target web page in accordance with a Document Object Model comprising image nodes and text nodes, wherein said acquiring of adjoining pages further comprises determining pages of URLs whose directory is common with a URL of said target page or a URL of links included in said target page, determining pages of URLs whose parent directory is common with the URL or said target page or the URL of the links included in said target page, or determining a top page of each directory under a root directory that includes the URL of said target page; prioritizing URLs of said adjoining pages based on either or both of an edit distance between a URL of said target page and URLs of said adjoining pages, or a relevance among URLs based on a number of co-occurrences or a number of cross-references between said target page and said adjoining pages; performing a difference operation to delete objects that are common among said target page and said adjoining pages from said target page to generate a simplified page, wherein said performing uses DP matching to determine whether said objects are common, wherein said difference operation comprises calculating a significance of the objects included in said target page, wherein if said significance exceeds a predetermined threshold, said objects are not deleted even if said objects are common with the objects of said adjoining pages, wherein said calculating of the significance is represented by a sum of weighted feature values; wherein said feature values comprising a character size of said objects, a numerical value assigned to fonts and other character attributes, a numerical value to identify whether said objects are a banner, a displacement value of said objects from a center of a screen, a number of keywords included in said objects, a numerical value assigned to information indicating

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whether said objects are added or updated, a ratio of updated characters of said objects, a numerical value assigned to information indicating whether said objects are one character, and a numerical value assigned to a tag class of said objects; deleting an object which has a significance less than said predetermined threshold included in simplified pages, or a table element or list element whose content is empty; performing a post-processing process comprising restoration of a list title, restoration of information at the top of or on a side of table, movement of a form to a rearward of the page, or reference of annotation information; and audibly outputting said simplified page is not fairly taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Support for this functionality can be found in the Specification, p. p. 9, paragraph [0062] through p. 10, paragraph [0063]; p. 11, paragraph [0067]; p. 13, paragraphs [0098], [0101]; p. 16, paragraph [0115]; p. 16, paragraph [0118] through p. 18, paragraph [0141]; p. 18, paragraph [0145]; p. 19, paragraph [0150]; Fig. 1.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 04/15/05 with respect to the rejection of claims 1-6, 10-12, 14-18, 20-22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sweet et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,415,278) and claims 7-9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Sweet in view of Nishizawa (U.S. Pat. No. 6,537,325) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.

However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of 35 U.S.C. 101 regarding non-statutory subject matter in claims 14-18 and 20-24.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Messerly (U.S. Pat. No. 5,941,944)

Theriault et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,821)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph R. Maniwang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3928. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JM

MARC D. THOMPSON
MARC THOMPSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER